

0002 MRI 00633/321

RR FBIWF FBIAT FBINY

DE RUCNFB #0018 3211702

ZNY CCCCC

R 171613Z NOV 98

FM DIRECTOR FBI (288-NY-268557)

TO FBI WASHINGTON FIELD/ROUTINE/

FBI ATLANTA/ROUTINE/

FBI NEW YORK/ROUTINE/

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CITE: //1312//

PASS: CITA SUPERVISORS: WF-SSA [REDACTED] AT- SSA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

[REDACTED] NY-SSA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] EUROPEAN HACKER GROUP PARTICIPATED  
IN ELECTRONIC ATTACK ON PENTAGON INTERNET WEBSITE (U).

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY  
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SOURCE: (U) INTERNET NEWS GROUPS.

[REDACTED]

b3 per DIA

b6  
b7C

SA [REDACTED]

288-AT-87255-2

SEARCHED <u>ew</u>	INDEXED <u>ew</u>
SERIALIZED <u>ew</u>	FILED <u>ew</u>
17 1998	
FBI-ATLANTA	

SC

b6  
b7C

SUMMARY: ~~(S)~~ ON 09 SEPTEMBER 1998, AN ITALIAN HACKER GROUP (U) PARTICIPATED IN SIMULTANEOUS ELECTRONIC ATTACKS (NETSTRIKES) ON INTERNET WEBSITES IN MEXICO, GERMANY, AND THE UNITED STATES. ITALIAN HACKER GROUP SUPPORTED THE ELECTRONIC ATTACK AND PRESENTED THE STATUS OF THE ATTACK AS IT WAS HAPPENING.

TEXT:

1. ~~(S)~~ THE GROUP, THE ELECTRONIC DISTURBANCE THEATER (EDT), (U) ANNOUNCED AN INTERNET-BASED ELECTRONIC ATTACK (A "NETSTRIKE") ON INTERNET WEBSITES IN THE UNITED STATES, GERMANY, AND MEXICO ON 05 SEPTEMBER 1998. THE NETSTRIKE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS POSTED TO A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT INTERNET NEWS GROUPS, INCLUDING AN ITALIAN HACKER INTERNET NEWS GROUP. THE ACTION CALLED FOR BY THE EDT WAS FOR "MULTIPLE ACTS OF ELECTRONIC CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE" IN SUPPORT OF "THE ZAPATISTAS IN CHIAPAS, MEXICO, AND WITH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE STRUGGLING AGAINST THE GLOBAL NEOLIBERAL ECONOMY". THE NETSTRIKE WAS PLANNED FOR 09 SEPTEMBER AND WAS AIMED AT THE FOLLOWING COMPUTER SYSTEMS [REDACTED]

b3 10 USC §130c

2. ~~(S)~~ THE EDT WAS PLANNING ON PURSUING THE NETSTRIKE IN (U)  
CONJUNCTION WITH THE ARS ELECTRONICA FESTIVAL ON INFORMATION  
WARFARE (INFOWAR) HELD IN LINZ, AUSTRIA, FROM 07 - 12  
SEPTEMBER. THE EDT BULLETIN OF 05 SEPTEMBER CALLED FOR  
SYMPATHETIC COMPUTER USERS TO CONNECT THEIR INTERNET WEB  
BROWSERS TO THE EDT'S FLOODNET SOFTWARE LOCATED ON THEIR  
HOMEPAGE AT HTTP://WWW.THING.NET/  
^RDOM/ZAPSTACTICAL/JAVASCRP.HTM AND  
HTTP://WWW.NYU.EDU/PROJECTS[ ]ECD.HTML. THE EDT PLANNED  
TO USE THEIR FLOODNET SOFTWARE AND THE COMPUTERS OF  
SYMPATHETIC COMPUTER USERS TO EFFECTIVELY BLOCK ACCESS TO  
THESE THREE SITES BY FLOODING THE SITES WITH MORE "HITS"  
(ATTEMPTED INTERNET CONNECTIONS) THAN THE TARGETED COMPUTER  
SYSTEMS COULD EFFECTIVELY NEGOTIATE, CAUSING THE TARGETED  
COMPUTER NETWORK TO EFFECTIVELY DROP OFF-LINE.

b6  
b7c

3. ~~(S)~~ THE ITALIAN HACKER INTERNET NEWS GROUP POSTINGS (U)  
CONCERNING THE EDT AND THE NETSTRIKE WERE POSTED BY THE  
ITALIAN HACKER WITH THE INTERNET CALL-SIGN "FERRY BYTE".  
FERRY BYTE IS A MEMBER OF THE ITALIAN HACKER GROUP "STRANO  
NETWORK" AND ITS SUBSET "POST\_AXION MUTANTE". THE STRANO

NETWORK IS A PART OF A LARGER CONSORTIUM OF ITALIAN SOCIAL ACTIVIST AND HACKER GROUPS KNOWN AS THE "EUROPEAN COUNTER NETWORK" (ECN). FERRY BYTE TRANSLATED THE ORIGINAL EDT BULLETIN INTO ITALIAN AND POSTED IT TO THE ITALIAN HACKER INTERNET NEWS GROUP. IN HIS ITALIAN TRANSLATION OF THE EDT BULLETIN, FERRY BYTE ALSO PROVIDED ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS FOR FACILITATING THE NETSTRIKE. FERRY BYTE RECOMMENDED THAT INTERESTED COMPUTER USERS SHOULD PERFORM THE FOLLOWING: USERS SHOULD CONTINUALLY "RELOAD" THE DESIGNATED LINK (WHICH WOULD CONTINUALLY QUERY THE TARGETED COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION); OPEN AS MANY INTERNET BROWSERS AND WINDOWS AS POSSIBLE, QUERYING THE DESIGNATED TARGETED COMPUTER SYSTEMS IN EACH OF THE WINDOWS; SET THE MEMORY OF THE INTERNET BROWSER'S CACHE TO ZERO; DO NOT START OR ALLOW ANY PROXIES FOR THE INTERNET BROWSER; AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLANNED NETSTRIKE TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE. FERRY BYTE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE INTERNET ADDRESS OF A SITE WHICH WOULD FACILITATE THE NETSTRIKE BY CONTROLLING THE SYMPATHETIC USER'S COMPUTER. THE INTERNET SITE IS [HTTP://WWW.THING.NET/~RDOM/ZAPSTACTICAL/ZAPS.HTML](http://www.thing.net/~rdom/zapstactical/zaps.html). FERRY BYTE ALSO PROVIDED THE RELEVANT IP ADDRESSES FOR EACH OF THE

TARGETED SITES. FERRY BYTE CONCLUDED BY ADDING THAT THE PROGRESS/SUCCESS OF THE NETSTRIKE CAN BE FOLLOWED BY SIMPLY TRYING TO "PING" OR PERFORM A TRACE ROUTE (TRACERT) ON THE TARGETED SERVERS. (FIELD COMMENT: LONGER "PING" TIMES WOULD CORRESPOND TO MORE ACTIVITY ON THE TARGETED COMPUTER SYSTEM. THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THE EDT ORGANIZERS IS THAT THE TARGETED COMPUTER SYSTEM WOULD BE UNREACHABLE.)

4. ~~(S)~~ PROGRESS OF THE EDT-ORGANIZED NETSTRIKE AGAINST THE (U) TARGETED COMPUTER SYSTEMS WAS REPORTED THROUGH VARIOUS POSTINGS MADE BY FERRY BYTE ON 09 SEPTEMBER. AT 1216L (ALL TIMES EUROPEAN STANDARD TIME) ON 09 SEPTEMBER, FERRY BYTE POSTED A MESSAGE TO THE HACKMEETING INTERNET NEWS GROUP STATING THAT THE WEBSITE AT [HTTP://WWW.THING.NET/~RDOM/ZAPSTACTICAL](http://www.thing.net/~rdom/zapstactical/zaps.html) /ZAPS.HTML WAS NOT RESPONDING AS OF 1200L AND THAT SYMPATHETIC USERS SHOULD TRY TO ACCESS THE TARGETED WEB SITES DIRECTLY. AT 1216L, FERRY BYTE ALSO STATED THAT ALL THREE OF THE TARGETED WEB SITES ARE APPARENTLY FINDING IT MORE DIFFICULT TO OPERATE AND THE WEB SITE OF THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT WAS ESPECIALLY SLOW IN RESPONDING. FERRY BYTE

CONCLUDED HIS MESSAGE BY STATING THAT NONE OF THE TARGETED WEBSITES ARE RESPONDING TO PING COMMANDS DIRECTED AT THEM.

5. ~~(S)~~ AT 1243L ON 09 SEPTEMBER, FERRY BYTE PROVIDED AN (U) UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE NETSTRIKE AND STATED THAT HTTP://WWW.THING.NET/^RDOM/ZAPSTACTICAL/ZAPS.HTML WAS ON-LINE AGAIN. FERRY BYTE ALSO ADDED AT THIS TIME THAT THE TARGETED WEB SITES WERE NOW RESPONDING TO PING COMMANDS, BUT THAT THE RESPONSE TIMES WERE MUCH SLOWER THAN NORMAL. AT 1617 ON 09 SEPTEMBER, FERRY BYTE PROVIDED A THIRD UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE NETSTRIKE AND STATED THAT THE WHILE THE TARGETED SITES WERE STILL ACCESSIBLE WITHOUT TOO MUCH DIFFICULTY, THEY WERE RESPONDING MORE SLOWLY.

6. ~~(S)~~ IN A RELATED POSTING, ANOTHER ECN MEMBER [REDACTED] (U) [REDACTED] POSTED A MESSAGE TO THE ITALIAN HACKER INTERNET NEWS GROUP AT 1850L ON 09 SEPTEMBER STATING THAT A MEMBER OF THE EDT, [REDACTED] HAD RECEIVED A THREATENING TELEPHONE CALL. [REDACTED] FORWARDED A EDT BULLETIN STATING THAT [REDACTED] HAD RECEIVED A THREATENING PHONE CALL ON 09 SEPTEMBER AT 0732L IN HIS HOTEL ROOM IN LINZ, AUSTRIA. THE BULLETIN REPORTED THAT A UNKNOWN PERSON, PRESUMED TO BE MEXICAN, CALLED [REDACTED] AT HIS HOTEL ROOM, ROOM NUMBER

b6  
b7c

610 AT THE STEINBERGER MAXX HOTEL IN LINZ, AUSTRIA.

ACCORDING TO THE EDT BULLETIN, [REDACTED] WAS THREATENED  
NOT TO GIVE HIS PRESENTATION ABOUT THE NETSTRIKE AT THE ARS  
ELECTRONICA INFOWAR FESTIVAL (NFI). [REDACTED] NEWSGROUP

b6  
b7c

POSTING ALSO PROVIDES ADDITIONAL EDT GUIDANCE FOR  
SYMPATHETIC COMPUTER USERS ON HOW TO CONFIGURE THEIR  
INTERNET BROWSERS IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE THE POTENTIAL OF THE  
EDT NETFLOOD SOFTWARE: 1) DISABLE JAVA SCRIPT, 2) SET THE  
INTERNET BROWSER PROXIES TO "DIRECT COMMUNICATION TO  
INTERNET", 3) SET INTERNET BROWSER CACHES TO "EVERY TIME",  
AND 4) LEAVE INTERNET BROWSER CONNECTED TO FLOODNET DURING  
THE 24 HOUR NETSTRIKE.

7. ~~(S)~~ THE EDT BULLETIN ALSO OUTLINED PROPOSED FUTURE  
NETSTRIKE ACTIVITY. ACCORDING TO THE BULLETIN, EDT PLANS TO  
PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE FLOODNET ACTIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY ON 16 SEPTEMBER, DIA DE LA RAZA ON  
12 OCTOBER, AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AT THE SCHOOL OF THE  
AMERICAS ON 22 NOVEMBER. THE EDT BULLETIN EDT ACTIVITY  
PLANNED AGAINST THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION ON 04  
OCTOBER AND 05 OCTOBER (NFI).

(U)

8. ~~(S)~~ MEMBERS OF THE ECN HAVE SUPPORTED A NUMBER OF (U)  
DIFFERENT SOCIAL CAUSES IN THE PAST. FERRY BYTE CLAIMS THAT  
THE CONCEPT OF A NETSTRIKE WAS CONCEIVED BY THE ITALIAN  
GROUP STRANO NETWORK IN JANUARY 1998 TO SUPPORT THE CHIAPAS  
MOVEMENT IN MEXICO. FERRY BYTE FURTHER STATED THAT THE  
JANUARY 1998 NETSTRIKE WAS SUCCESSFULLY TARGETED AGAINST 2-3  
MEXICAN INTERNET WEB SITES. IN AN EDT BULLETIN, EDT STATED  
THAT THEY HAVE BEEN USING ITS FLOODNET SOFTWARE SINCE APRIL  
1998 TO "ENGAGE IN VIRTUAL SIT-INS ON THE WEB SITES OF THE  
MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE CLINTON WHITE HOUSE".

9. ~~(S)~~ ON 26 SEPTEMBER, EDT MEMBER [REDACTED] POSTED A (U)  
MESSAGE TO AN INTERNET NEWS GROUP THAT HE HAD BEEN FORCED TO  
REMOVE THE EDT WEBSITE FROM THE NEW YORK UNIVERSITY'S (NYU)  
WEB SERVER. [REDACTED] STATED THAT THE MOVE WAS REQUIRED  
FOLLOWING AN EMAIL FROM THE DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
AGENCY (DISA) AUTOMATED SYSTEM SECURITY INCIDENT SUPPORT  
TEAM (ASSIST) TO THE NYU COMPUTER SECURITY MANAGER.

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEW WEB SITE ADDRESS FOR THE EDT  
AND ITS FLOODNET PROJECT IS LOCATED AT  
HTTP://WWW.THING.NET/~RDOM/ECD/ECD.HTML.

COMMENTS: (FIELD COMMENTS) 1. (C) IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT



PAGE NINE DE RUCNFB 0018 ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE IN NETSTRIKES AGAINST DOD SITES AS  
THESE SOCIAL ACTIVISTS/HACKER GROUPS SUPPORT MORE CAUSES  
WHICH THEY PERCEIVE THE DOD TO BE INIMICAL TO.

WARNING: (U) REPORT IS CLASSIFIED ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~.

DRV FROM: (U) DIA  MSG 291330Z JAN 96.

b3 per DIA

DECL: (U) ~~X1, X5, X6~~.

BT  
#0018

NNNN